

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054236  
ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA:RCHOLBROOKE:CB  
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE  
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EA ONLY

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O 110315Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 054236

STADIS////////////////////////////////////  
EYES ONLY FOR AMB. SULLIVAN FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, RP

SUBJECT: YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PRM AND UNDERHILL CABLES

1. TWO MATTERS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS MAY HAVE CAUSED TWO-WAY CONCERN BETWEEN THIS OFFICE AND YOURS. LET ME ADDRESS THEM BOTH. FIRST IS THE PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE BASED ON FRANK UNDERHILL'S CABLE CONCERNING THE PHILIPPINE BASES. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT UNDERHILL WAS TRYING FOR WELL-TIMED IMPACT, BUT AS WE BOTH KNOW IN FACT HE WAS RESPONDING TO OUR REQUEST FOR THE VIEWS OF ALL THE AMBASSADORS IN THE REGION. I AM NOT SURE OF THE MOTIVE OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO GAVE THE CABLE OUT, BUT I AM DEEPLY SORRY ABOUT IT. PHIL THINKS IT CAME FROM SOMEONE WHO SEEKS TO PROMOTE U.S.-PHILIPPINE FRICTION OVER THE BASE ISSUE, RATHER THAN SOMEONE SEEKING TO EMBARRASS UNDERHILL. I AM AGNOSTIC ON THE QUESTION AND WOULD  
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WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS.

2. ON THE SECOND MATTER, CONCERNING THE EARLY DRAFT OF THE PRM WHICH SOMEONE PRESUMABLY IN THE MILITARY SHOWED YOU, THERE IS NO INTENTION HERE TO REDUCE YOUR ROLE OR ACCESS. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION, AS YOU POINTED OUT, AND I THINK THAT THE EARLY RETURNS

ARE FAIRLY PROMISING. THE DRAFTS WERE FLOWING QUITE

RAPIDLY, AND SINCE WE HAD YOUR LONG TELEGRAMS AS WELL AS YOUR THOUGHTFUL AND INTERESTING PERSONAL LETTER TO ME, WE FELT THAT YOUR VIEWS WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PRM PROCESS. THAT PROCESS IN THIS CASE WAS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DOD/ISA AND BOB MILLER WAS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB OF COORDINATING STATE'S POSITION. THERE WAS NO TIME, GIVEN THE TIGHT DEADLINES, TO SEND DRAFTS OUT TO THE FIELD AND GET RESPONSES BACK; A NEW DRAFT WAS BEING PRODUCED EVERY FEW DAYS. I WOULD, HOWEVER, POINT OUT THAT I INFORMED YOU OF THE FACT THAT A PRM WOULD BE DONE WELL BEFORE IT WAS DECIDED AND AHEAD OF ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL WORD, AND ASKED YOU AT THAT TIME FOR YOUR VIEWS, WHICH YOU SENT.

3. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PRM IS NOW DONE. THE NEXT STEP IS TO RECOMMEND THE POLICY. BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT THE DECISIONS ON THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD BE TAKEN ONLY WITHIN A LARGER CONTEXT, TONY LAKE AND I ARE THINKING OF RECOMMENDING TO THE SECRETARY THAT THE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE HAVE REACHED A CLEARER DEFINITION OF WHAT OUR ASIAN POLICIES ARE GOING TO BE, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE AND INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THIS WOULD MEAN, IF FOLLOWED, THAT WHILE THE PRM WOULD BE REVIEWED, A POLICY DECISION WOULD BE DEFERRED FOR A WHILE. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS OF THIS APPROACH.

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4. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL MEET IN PART YOUR VALID CONCERNS. WARM REGARDS.

5. IN RESPONSE NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, US, RP, (UNDERHILL, FRANK)  
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